



McCormick is BGCB Youth of the Year

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South Boston Boys & Girls Club member Greer McCormick recently was named Youth of the Year at her Club and for Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston's (BGCB). McCormick, along with four Club Youths of the Year, was among 125 teen leaders recognized at BGCB's 32nd Annual Teen Recognition Dinner on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at The Seaport World Trade Center.

In her 12 years as a Club member, Greer has found many positive things to participate in, including serving as a Junior Staff member in the Club's aquatics department and Keystone Club, a teen leadership program.

Outside of the Club, Greer serves on the Mayor's Youth Council and the Institute of Contemporary Art's Teen Council; volunteers at Samaritans, a suicide prevention program; and is a senior at Boston Latin School, where she works as a sports writer on the school newspaper and makes academic achievement a priority.

"I used to be shy and uncomfortable with others, but when I joined Keystone Club in the ninth grade, it was a turning point for me. I am very happy with the person I am today, and I believe I owe it to the South Boston Club. I'm looking forward to college because real learning for me is going somewhere completely new and different, and making that place as comfortable as my home in Boston."

"Greer displays the characteristics we instill in our Club members and encourage in their lives," said Kate Croteau, Teen Director at the South Boston Club. "She is a remarkable teenager who shows respect, talent, responsibility and positive attitude in all of her actions."

The Youth of the Year program recognizes the teen Club member who most exemplifies excellence in the following areas: responsibility to home and family, moral character, community service, scholastic achievement and diversity of school activities, service to Club, ability to plan for the future and set goals, poise and public speaking.

In addition, the judges take into consideration any significant obstacles the youth has had to overcome. The nomination process requires two essays from the applicant, along with letters of support, and an interview.

Each of BGCB's five free-standing Clubs selects a local Youth of the Year. The judges, who committed their time, hard work and thoughtful consideration, selected the BGCB

Youth of the Year from among the five finalists. The judges were: Andrea Baptiste, a previous contestant on "The Biggest Loser," and an advocate for youth and fitness; Felipe Martinez, owner of Astro Imagine, which donates office supplies to BGCB; and David Bergeron, a former NFL player who is now designing youth football programming for BGCB.

"Throughout her life, Greer has worked hard to excel and has faced obstacles with poise and strength of character. Her maturity, strong moral compass, and desire to help others have made her an outstanding Club member and a role model for her peers," says Linda Whitlock, BGCB's Nicholas President and CEO. "All of us at BGCB congratulate her on being named Youth of the Year, an honor that is well-deserved."

Other teens honored as their Club's 2008 Youth of the Year are: Hector Kilgoe, Charlestown Club; Patricia Orellana, Jordan Club, Chelsea; Maya Scott, Blue Hill Club; Jakeen "Keeny" Cobb, Yawkey Club

Greer will represent BGCB at the Massachusetts state Youth of the Year competition.

Five regional winners were selected from among the state winners to compete for the national honor in Washington, D.C., where the National Youth of the Year will be officially installed by the President in a White House ceremony in September. In addition, the winner will receive a \$10,000 scholarship from The Reader's Digest Foundation, sponsor of the program since its inception in 1947. The national program is administered by Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA).